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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Somalia, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan: draft resolution

Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/190 of 21 December 1990, 46/150 of 18 December 1991, 47/165 of 18 December 1992, 48/206 of 21 December 1993, 50/134 of 20 December 1995, 52/172 of 16 December 1997, 54/97 of 8 December 1999, 56/109 of 14 December 2001 and 58/119 of 17 December 2003, as well as its resolution 55/171 of 14 December 2000 on closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and taking note of the decisions adopted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the implementation of those resolutions,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, 1991/51 of 26 July 1991 and 1992/38 of 30 July 1992 and Council decision 1993/232 of 22 July 1993,

Conscious of the long-term nature of the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which was a major technological catastrophe in terms of its scope and complexity and created humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health consequences and problems of common concern, requiring for their solution wide and active international cooperation and coordination of efforts in this field at the international and national levels,

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Expressing profound concern at the ongoing effects of the consequences of the accident on the lives and health of people, in particular children, in the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as in other affected countries,

Noting the consensus reached among members of the Chernobyl Forum[1] on the findings of the reports entitled "Environmental Consequences of the Chernobyl Accident and their Remediation: Twenty Years of Experience" and "Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident and Special Health Care Programmes", and recognizing the important contribution made by the Forum to the overall assessment of the environmental, health, and socio-economic effects of the Chernobyl disaster,

Acknowledging the importance of the national efforts being undertaken by the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to mitigate and minimize the consequence of the Chernobyl disaster,

Recognizing the contribution of civil society organizations, including the national Red Cross Societies of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in response to the Chernobyl disaster and in support of the efforts of the affected countries,

Emphasizing the importance of the new developmental approach to tackling the problems caused by the Chernobyl accident aimed at normalizing the situation of the individuals and communities concerned in the medium and long term,[2]

Stressing the exceptional Chernobyl-related needs, in particular in the areas of health, ecology and research, in the context of the transition from the emergency to the recovery phase of mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

Noting the transfer of the functions of the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl from the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and Chairperson of the United Nations Development Group,

Stressing the need for further coordination by the United Nations Development Programme and improved resource mobilization by the United Nations system to support the activities of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network as well as the efforts to disseminate the findings of the Chernobyl Forum,

Noting the completion of information needs assessments of the affected populations in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine under the aegis of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network,

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[1] The members of the Chernobyl Forum are drawn from the following organizations and bodies within the United Nations system: International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, the World Bank; as well as representatives of the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

[2] See the United Nations report entitled "The Human Consequences of the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident: A Strategy for Recovery".

Stressing the significance of the upcoming twentieth anniversary of the accident for the further strengthening of international cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of resolution 58/119,[3] as well as relevant parts of the reports of the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the contribution made by States and by organizations of the United Nations system to the development of cooperation to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the activities of regional and other organizations and those of non-governmental organizations, as well as bilateral activities;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts undertaken by the agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl to implement a new developmental approach to studying, mitigating and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, in particular through the development of specific projects, and stresses the need for the Inter-Agency Task Force to continue its activities to that end, including through coordinating efforts in the field of resource mobilization;

3. *Acknowledges* the difficulties faced by the most affected countries in minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and invites States, in particular donor States and all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, to continue to provide support to the ongoing efforts of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, including through the allocation of adequate funds to support medical, social, economic and ecological programmes related to the disaster;

4. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations should continue to play an important catalytic and coordinating role in the strengthening of international cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, in both his capacity as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and as Chairperson of the United Nations Development Group, to take further appropriate practical measures to strengthen coordination of the international efforts in that area;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* the realization of the Cooperation for Rehabilitation Programme in Belarus and the Chernobyl Recovery and Development Programme in Ukraine, aimed at promoting better living conditions in and the sustainable development of the affected territories;

7. *Also notes with satisfaction* assistance rendered by the International Atomic Energy Agency to Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on remediation of agricultural and urban environments, cost-effective agricultural countermeasures and monitoring of human exposure in areas affected by the Chernobyl disaster;

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[3] A/60/443.

8. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the progress made by the Governments of the affected countries in implementing national strategies to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident, and calls upon United Nations agencies and multilateral and bilateral donors to continue to align their assistance with the priorities of the national strategies of the affected States, and stresses the importance of working together on their implementation in a common effort in the spirit of cooperation;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Ukraine and the international donor community to bring to completion the building of the shelter[4] as well as those efforts to provide for the environmentally sound collection and storage of nuclear waste, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

10. *Notes* the necessity of further measures to ensure the integration of the assessment by the Chernobyl Forum of the environmental, health and socio-economic consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident into the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network process through dissemination of the findings of the Forum, including in the form of practical messages on healthy and productive lifestyles, to the populations affected by the accident in order to empower them to maximize social and economic recovery and sustainable development in all its aspects;

11. *Recognizes* the role that the Commonwealth of Independent States plays in the process of the preparation of events in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident to be held in States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States;

12. *Welcomes*, in this context, the activities in observance of the International Day Commemorating Victims of Radiation Accidents and Catastrophes, 26 April, undertaken by the States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States;

13. *Invites* Member States to observe this Day and to conduct appropriate activities to commemorate victims of radiation accidents and catastrophes and to enhance public awareness of their consequences for human health and the environment throughout the world;

14. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to host international events on lessons learned and on future actions in response to the Chernobyl disaster to observe the twentieth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, and invites organizations of the United Nations system, donor countries and other development agencies to contribute to their effective realization;

15. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, in April 2006, a special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and, through existing coordination mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, to continue to maintain close cooperation with the agencies of the United Nations system, as well as with regional and other

[4] See ibid., paras. 49 and 50.

relevant organizations, while implementing specific Chernobyl-related programmes and projects;

17. *Requests* the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl to organize, in collaboration with the Governments of the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, a further study of health, environmental and socio-economic consequences of the Chernobyl accident, consistent with the recommendations of the Chernobyl Forum;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, under a separate sub-item, a report containing a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of all aspects of the present resolution.